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To all Justices of Peace or other Magistrates to whom this may come.

FReinds, The Lord God that made Heaven and Earth, hath given you a day, and hath put Power into your hands for this very end and purpose, To try you, and to see whether you will exercise your Power for or against him; Therefore be wise, *O ye Rulers*, Come to Gods fear, and that will teach you wisdom, come to his living witness, and that will give you a sound understanding: For he that is placed in authority for God, *bears not the sword in vain: For the Law was added because of transgression, and it was made for the lawless, and for the disobedient, and was to be a Terror to the evil Doer, but a praise to them that doth well*: But, O! my friends, is not Justice turned backward, and is not Equity faln in your streets? And is not, (or hath not) your Prisons and Dungeons been filled with the innocent people that fear the Lord God, and tremble at his Word, while the Wicked is at liberty, and the ungodly acting and exerciting themselves in all manner of wick-

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edneſs, (as Stage Playes and other filthy abominations) whereby the name of the God that made heaven and earth is greatly diſhonoured; and the precious Light of his Son undervalued, and caſt behind their backs: Oh, Will not the Lord viſit for theſe things, ſurely yea,; and when he hath tryed his people to the full, he will then bring an overflowing ſcourge upon this Nation. O, England, England, a neceſſity is laid upon me to cry in thy ears; And woe be unto me if I keep ſilence. I am like a drunken man, or one whom Wine hath overcome, becauſe of the Lord, and becauſe of the Word of his Holineſs. O England, thou that perſecutes Gods Prophets, and impriſoneſt thoſe that in love is ſent to call thee to repentance, Wilt thou yet remain hardned for all that ever the Lord hath done, and is a doing in this the day of his power? Will neither Mercy allure thee, nor Judgement affright thee, nor awaken thee out of thy ſins? Will not the men of *Niniveh* riſe in Judgement againſt thee? They had but one warning, but O England, thou haſt had many. Ah my heart is troubled for thee, and my ſpirit is moved with compaſſion, and I am conſtrained to ſay as a ſervant of the Lord ſaid

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in former dayes, *O that my head were as waters, and my eyes as a fountain of Tears, that I might weep day night for the misery that is coming upon thee:* What Madneſs and Folly hath poſſeſſed thee? that thou ſhouldſt thus requite the Lord: Could he ever have done more for a people then he hath already done for thee O Nation: Firſt, he ſent his ſervants, then ſaith he, *I will ſend my beloved Son, they will reverence him*; and now the Son is come, glory to him for ever: yea the Son of God is come who hath brought life and ſalvation, and we look not for another; and though the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things, yet in vain do they ſtrive, for the Lamb muſt have the victory: therefore haſt ye, haſt ye out of Babylon, for behold the days come, that Tribulation and Anguiſh ſhall be upon every ſoul that doth evil: ſo that they ſhall cry to the rocks and to the mountains fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that ſits upon the Throne, for the great day of his wrath is come, and who ſhall be able to ſtand: the 27. day of the 11. month 1667.

Judith Bowlbie.

Some OBJECTIONS *answered.*

Object. I. MAY some say, The Quakers are a refactory people, they are not obedient to the Lawes of the Nation.

Answer, To this I answer; The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made us free from the Law of sin and death; and as for the outward Law, that would again bring us into bondage, and would have us to deny the Lord that hath done so great things for us, which we cannot do, but are resolved in the strength of the Lord to suffer whatsoever the powers of the earth are permitted to inflict upon us.

Object. II. But may some say, if the Law be of no force unto you, how do you expect to live in the Nation? Would you be banished from your Countrey and Kindred into a forraign Nation amongst a people of a strange language?

Answer,

Anſwer. I anſwer, If it were ſo, that they ſhould baniſh us from our neareſt and deareſt relations, yet can they not baniſh us from the preſence of our God: no verily, his preſence will go with us; and in his preſence thereis fulneſs of joy, and at his right hand there is rivers of pleaſure for evermore.

Object. III. May ſome ſay, if it be ſo, That neither the Law, nor Baniſhment can prevaile over you, what remains, but even the ſentence of death and condemnation to be paſſed upon you?

Anſwer, To this I anſwer, There is no condemnation to thoſe that are in Chriſt Jeſus. O death and hell do what ye may: For we do fight the good fight, we have kept the faith, (and through the Lords ſtrength which hath hitherto aſſiſted us) ſhall finiſh our Courſe, henceforth there is laid up for us a Crown of righteouſneſs, and not for us only, but for all thoſe that love the Lord Jeſus, and expect his appearance; and though our bodies be laid in the duſt of the earth, yet this birth ſhall never die, this birth which God hath raiſed up and brought forth in this Nation, it ſhall never go into captivity any more: Therefore ye

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Rulers of the earth, O ceaſe, ceaſe your perſecution; for ye may as well ſay to the ſea, be thou dryed up, or to the Sun in the firmament, ſtand thou ſtill at noon day, as to think to hinder the Lords work in this the day of his power, yea his ſtrange work: Behold ye diſpiſers, and wonder, for I will work a work in your dayes, that ye ſhall in no wiſe believe, though one declare it unto you, and now the work is a working, and God hath many witneſſes: Glory! Glory! endleſs praiſes, ſaith my ſoul, be unto him and to the Lamb for ever, and for ever more.

- the 14. day of the 12. month. 1667.

Judith Bowlbie.